

### **Remarks**

Claims 1, 2, 5-20, 23, and 26-31 are pending in this application. Each of claims 1, 2, and 23 have been rejected as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,594 to Bowman-Amuah in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20010049717 to Freeman et al. and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020065879 to Ambrose et al. The examiner has objected to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 because the terms “the source node” and “the target node” lack antecedent basis. The examiner has indicated that claims 5-20 and 26-31 constitute allowable subject matter.

#### **A. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants acknowledge the examiner’s indication that claims 5-20 and 26-31 constitute allowable subject matter. The elements of claims 1 and 2 have been incorporated into claim 5, which is now an independent claim. Each of claims 6-20 depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 5. The elements of claim 23 have been incorporated into claim 26, which is now an independent claim. Each of claim 27-31 depends, either directly or indirectly, from claim 26. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-20 and 26-31 are in condition for allowance.

#### **B. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 23 Over Ambrose**

The examiner has combined three references — Bowman-Amuah, Freeman, and Ambrose — for the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 23. The examiner recognizes that Bowman-Amuah and Freeman do not teach the element of the claims: “wherein the repository subsystem is operable to queue the write statement issued by the source subsystem and deliver the write statement to the target subsystem.” The examiner states that this teaching is found in Ambrose in paragraphs 0185, 0291, and 0463 of Ambrose. Although these passages of Ambrose describe a server that is a “middle tier,” there is no indication that the server of Ambrose is operable to

queue a write statement issued by a source subsystem for later delivery to the target subsystem. Because the combination of Bowman-Amuah, Freeman, and Ambrose does not disclose each element of claims 1, 2, and 23, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn and that these claims should be passed to issuance.

### **Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1, 2, 5-20, 23, and 26-31 are allowable and should be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Fulghum', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: May 30, 2006